

Minutes

Governor's Cabinet on Chronic and Long Term Care

Thursday, November 10, 2005

1:00 p.m.

Department of Labor and Training

1st Floor Conference Room

1511 Pontiac Avenue

John O. Pastore Center

Cranston, Rhode Island

Members in Attendance:

Corinne Calise Russo, Co-Chair, DEA; Ron Lebel, DHS; Kathleen Spangler, MHRH; Philip Sheridan, DBR

Excused:

Tim Costa, Co-Chair, Governor's Office; Beverly Najarian, DOA; Jane A. Hayward, OHHS; Adelita Orefice, DLT; David Gifford, MD, DOH; and Rollin Bartlett, DBR designee

Department Representatives:

Dave Hamel, Governor's Office; Paula Parker, DEA; Joan D'Agostion, DEA; Maryann Ciano, DEA; Paulla Lipsey, DEA; John Young, DHS; Frank Spinelli, DHS; Larry Grimaldi, DEA; Linda Hughes, DHS

I. Opening Remarks

Corinne Calise Russo called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m. She announced that Kristin Pono Sousa, (DEA) gave birth to a baby boy a few days ago.

The minutes of the September 8, 2005 meeting were approved and seconded.

II. Working Group Reports

- Aging and Disability Resource Center – Joan D'Agostino**

Joan D'Agostino announced The Point opened for business on November 1 and has experienced an increase in calls daily. The Point has 7 staff members, one fluent in Spanish; all have completed training in RIPAE, energy assistance and Medicare Part D. The Point staff will be outsourced throughout the state for various Medicare events. Director Russo is looking into the cost of obtaining an 800 number for The Point. DEA submitted a White Paper to the Governor to continue funding for The Point. The Governor will be attending the CMS Medicare event on November 15 where he will be handing out information on The Point.

Frank Spinelli stated that CMS is sending out letters to the dual eligibles. DHS will be sending 2 to 3 staff members to The Point for 6 months to assist

with the high volume of calls from dual eligibles on Medicaid. DHS is also assisting in translating The Point information into other

languages.

Medicare Part D and SPAP – Larry Grimaldi

- **Larry Grimaldi reported that both he and Director Russo have been interviewed and appeared on several TV news spots and radio talk shows to discuss RIPAE and Medicare Part D. He stated that DEA sponsored 98 RIPAE and Medicare Part D workshop with SHIP volunteers and CIS workers to assist seniors. CMS will have Part D formularies on their website on November 14. Frank Spinelli stated that CMS chose 9 different plans and has auto enrolled 27,000 RI dual eligibles in those plans. Director Russo reported that nursing home residents do not have any cost sharing. And according to CMS, Part D options for hospital patients will be driven by their length of stay.**

III. New Directions

- **Elder Rights Initiative – Paula Parker**

Paula Parker stated that the Office of Elder Protection, within DEA, will coordinate and oversee DEA Protective Services; Guardianship; Legal Advocacy; Committee for the Safety and Care of the Elderly; continue oversight of the Ombudsman grant; initiate an After Hours program, which will assess and triage emergency placement for seniors at risk during the hours of 4:00 p.m. to 8:30 a.m. and standardize collected data. The Governor has requested a work plan by 12-31-05. This initiative is statutory and does not require legislation. However, the self neglect component may require

legislative changes.

- **White House Conference on Aging – Paula Parker**

The 7 member delegation will be representing RI at the White House Conference on Aging on December 11 to 14. RI submitted a 12 page resolution document which appears on the White House Conference on Aging website. Delegates will be voting on 50 resolutions during the 4 day conference.

- **Long Term Care Assessment Workgroup – John Young**

John Young stated that the LTC Reform Act was passed by the General Assembly to clarify the LTC rate structure. DHS is directed to assess and report on the LTC system by early '06. The assessment will include a rate survey of LTC services to determine an adequate rate of compensation for community based LTC providers.

- **Office of the Governor: Communication**

Director Russo read a letter from Governor Carcieri charging the Cabinet with reviewing the activities of the DEA and DHS workgroup assessing the availability of community based care and to make recommendations for increased support for Adult Day Services. The quality and scope of services provided by the Adult Day Centers is not reflected in their current rate.

IV. Other Business and Announcements

None

Public Comments

None

V. Adjourn

The next meeting is scheduled for January 12, 2006. Director Russo wished all a Happy Holiday Season. The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Others in Attendance:

Kathleen Kelly, Bob Caffrey, Alan Tavares, Steve Jennings, Melissa Smith, Jennifer Minuto, Kathleen Heren, Sister Aline Giroux and Sharon Brinkworth

Respectfully submitted,

Donna M. Slemon

Assistant to the Director

Department of Elderly Affairs